

2012 Parks Budget Community Conversations

Table 9 - Summary of Responses
Tuesday, May 3, 2011, Meadowbrook Community Center

Question #4: What does a successful parks system look like to you?

Key themes

- Accessibility for all
- Affordability – fees are ok
- Wide range of programs
- Maintenance – a levy would be ok
- More volunteer programs, flexibility within the Parks Dept.
- Recognize the need for public/private partnerships, but must find the right balance—must keep mission of Parks Dept.

Full notes

- Robust leadership and talent running the department staff at all levels.
- System that is accessible to all
- People engaged in a wide variety of events, wide age range, aesthetics, customer service.
- Customer service – staff. Face of the system, on-to-on greetings is important
- Parks more interested in \$\$, Chose Chihuly, not open space: Sandpoint Sail
- Public/private partnerships are important, building 11 is a loss. We need a wider view—public \$\$ in to look at the whole.
- Some deals are not good for accessibility use or rate low and programs non-profits in place.
- Paid programs focus on Parks dept not just availability of community centers as drop in centers—of all ages
- Balance between finding affordable services that allow budget /department to function
- Don't close program/ buildings, but reductions are ok for the short term
- Balance to bring revenue in responsibly: no corporate or commercial things—too shortsighted
- Citizen input
- Wide range of services that are accessible for everyone
- Maintenance of open spaces and recreational facilities, not into special programs
- Magnuson programs important—questioned lights and leases, thinks its working
- Maintenance as existing facilities. Keep the ones we have in good shape. Both buildings and grounds—variety of activities, sailing, etc.
- Passive and active for every age
- Move capital 2008 levy on ballot and move to maintenance
- Another parks levy for operations and maintenance
- User fees are ok, but keep them affordable. Scale back programs, don't cut.
- Building 11 is not a good deal
- Baseball, sailing, soccer, dog parks = good
- Maintain open space, capital construction and programs
- Open doors to dedicated revenue
- Supports community, sliding scale fees, text message contributions, option-based fees
- Equal access and accessibility, but with money put aside for major maintenance
- Smart choices

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- Provide broader base of opportunities
- Concerned about commercialization of Magnuson
- Corporate partnerships are ok, but not at the expense of families and access—ok in other parts of the park, NOT on the waterfront
- Don't push out successful non-profits
- Better corporate balance – naming rights are ok
- Opposed to the Building 11 lease
- Money made from Parks should go back to parks
- Owned by the City, run according to mission, corporate ok as long as it doesn't change the look and mission or help expand programming and bring in revenue
- Offers a wide variety of programs and services for all that the community can access. Fees are ok
- Keep senior programs
- Offering public space to all—serves the public—monitoring current public needs
- Flexibility around rules to allow neighbors to do things.
- Maintenance important, willing to be taxed
- Creation of a metropolitan taxing district
- Willing to pay more, we need to keep growing and not become stagnant, keep pushing forward. Reductions are ok but for short term, in the big picture.
- Don't sell parks—we need a bigger vision
- Don't get too expensive, affordability helps build the neighborhood.
- As the budget fluctuates, maintain balance of arts, recreation, environment, culture-- scale down don't eliminate
- Parks levy needs to include maintenance \$\$\$. Stop buying new parks
- Levy for maintenance and operations
- Naming rights are ok
- Community centers need to be affordable and accessible
- Parks systems involve everyone: more volunteers, user fees ok, getting people motivated, cleaning and maintaining
- Bigger and coherent; include other properties by other agencies. Gather resources, SDOT green streets, SPU
- SPU covering reservoirs is good example
- Buildings: Use needs to be consistent with use. Ok to demo if not being used.
- Lots of users are a symbol of good parks
- Don't be a bottleneck in the volunteer efforts
- Access is important and diversity for all – wide range – open spaces to buildings and programs
- Thoughtful partnerships ok, as long as kept with the mission of parks.